

NEW YORK TIMES  
22 JUL 1971

## Air Force to Supervise Rand's Papers

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 21--

The Air Force disclosed today that the Rand Corporation has custody of more than 170,000 confidential documents.

The Air Force Secretary, Robert C. Seamans Jr., said in a memorandum that custody of the documents as they are inventoried would be transferred to the Air Force, which contracts for Rand's services.

Mr. Seamans' memorandum, which was received at the Pentagon July 15, replied to a directive issued July 1 by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird. Mr. Laird called for tighter security at Rand after discovery by the Pentagon of "deficiencies" in the research corporation's protection of secret information.

Mr. Seamans said that detailed inspections of Rand's facilities revealed "some deficiencies" in the Washington office, but he did not specify what they were.

A Pentagon source said that security "deficiencies" could range from loss of documents to writing down safe combinations, which are supposed to be memorized, in visible places.

Mr. Seamans said prelim-

inary findings in terms of "deficiencies" at Rand's Santa Monica office, by far the larger of its two installations, were not yet available.

About 155,000 classified documents are kept at Santa Monica, he said. The remaining documents--59 of them classified top secret and 15,000 secret--are at the Washington office.

## Central Deposit Required

Among the security reforms called for by Mr. Seamans is the placement of all top-secret and most special-access documents in one central repository with an adjacent reading room.

The Washington office already has such a system, but Santa Monica has several repositories and employees with security clearance have reportedly been permitted to remove documents to their offices.

Under Mr. Seamans' security reforms, Rand personnel are

no longer permitted to remove top-secret or special-access documents to individual offices or safes.

He said while the Air Force will be accountable for all secret material, contractors such as Rand will be authorized to store and have unlimited access to the documents for "limited periods."

The major day-to-day result of the reforms will be the presence of an Air Force officer--instead of a Rand official--in the central reading and storage rooms at each installation, Mr. Seamans said.

When Mr. Laird issued his directive July 1, a spokesman for Rand said it "is not going to affect our ongoing work--we will have direct supervision rather than indirect supervision."

The security reforms are a result of an investigation made after publication in The New York Times of the Pentagon papers.

MORI/CDF